



**SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
FEBRUARY 7, 2011  
6:00 P.M.**

<b>Regular Meeting</b>	The Special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Middletown was held in the Council Chamber of the Municipal Building on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 6 p.m.
<b>Present</b>	Council Members: Thomas J. Serra, Ronald P. Klattenberg, Philip J. Pessina, Gerald E. Daley, Robert P. Santangelo, James B. Streeto, Deborah A. Kleckowski, David Bauer, and Daniel T. Drew; Sergeant-at-arms Acting Chief of Police Patrick McMahon; and Common Council Clerk Marie O. Norwood.
<b>Absent</b>	Mayor Sebastian N. Giuliano, Council Members Joseph E. Bibisi, Hope P. Kasper, and Grady L. Faulkner, Jr. and Corporation Counsel William Howard.
<b>Also Present</b>	Tom Hartley, Director of Parking, Michiel Wackers, Deputy Director of Planning Conservation and Development, Raymond Santostefano, Director of Parks and Recreation, William Russo, Director of Public Works, Faith Jackson, Director of Human Relations, Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer, Philip Cacciola, Director of Consumer Protection, Dr. Joseph Havlicek, Director of Health, Timothy Lynch, Acting City Attorney, Gary Ouellette, Fire Chief, Carl Erlacher, Director of Finance, Debra Milardo Director of Personnel and ten members of the public
<b>Meeting Called to Order</b>	The Acting Chair (Pessina) calls the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m. and asks Councilman Drew to lead the public in the Pledge of Allegiance.
<b>Call of Meeting Read</b>	The Call of the meeting is read and accepted. The Minority Leader declares this call a legal call and the meeting a legal meeting.
<b>Workshop Opens</b>	<p>The Acting Chair opens Questions to Directors workshop at 6:20 p.m.</p> <p>Councilman Klattenberg asks to address questions to the Personnel Director. He asks on the nonbargaining positions, he would like clarification. It says they be granted the salary increase afforded to MMPA, 4 % increase. Is the 4% cast in concrete. Is there a direct tie in that it requires them to have a 4% values. Ms Milardo responds no; it has been the Councilis practice for the nine members of the classified service to always piggy back for wage and benefits. This is the last year and wage of the contract and it is my understanding that PRC we will be bringing forward an employment document for terms and conditions for exempt directors from this point forward and this is almost the last phase of our former practice and hopefully we move into a better direction. Councilman Klattenberg asks about a new agreement. Ms Milardo states it has been talked about during her tenure and has not moved forward and there is more talk about doing things differently. Larger municipalities like Manchester and East Hartford have a document in place and she did the document to mirror those towns and it will go to the Personnel Review Committee and then be forwarded to the Council for action and approval in March. Councilman Klattenberg asks if the effort to get the document finalized, was it due to the last be it resolved, because of the last paragraph. Ms Milardo responds yes. She did not think it was the Councilis intent to remove benefits. The wording of the resolution was poor, but it was Councilman Loffredo's intent to have this document. This could be read to have the benefits removed as of July 1. I think we will be okay come March to address employment issues for these employees. Councilman Klattenberg states the 14% versus 15% that was part of the MMPA agreement. Ms Milardo responds in July we bring forward these resolutions and it does not serve the Council or employees well and you always bring forward issues of wage and benefits and when you didn't raise their wages, you removed the raise in the health premiums. When you have the situation we have here, it is imperative that you continue to move equal so you don't devalue the top jobs in Middletown. She understood where the Council was coming from and the resolution was not worded as well as it could be and hopes in March the way the City does business will change.</p> <p>Councilman Bauer is recognized and states not for this director. The Acting Chair recognizes Councilwoman Kleckowski who asks Ms Milardo to share with the Council the MOU agreement with the Board of Education employees. Ms Milardo states they conferenced before Judge Holzberg and</p>

they (Board of Education) will be making restitution regarding the sick time discussion. It will take place in the next week or two and a sick bank policy will be discussed. It is the management parties and anything they come up with is subject to mandatory bargaining and will come before the Union and Fire is already working on a sick bank policy. The employee will be made whole and we will have a uniform policy to work with.

Councilman Bauer is recognized and asks to address questions to Michiel Wackers

**Noted for the Record**

Councilman Serra arrives at 6:28 p.m.

Michiel Wackers comes forward and Councilman Bauer states we are adding to the agenda a plan for a small business assistance program; can you walk through it. It is the landlord's responsibility for assistance of all types and why is it the City that has to have the deep pockets. Where is our responsibility. Mr. Wackers states the City is looking out for Main Street and the downtown and people who populate it. We are trying to keep their doors open in Middletown, not to have them move elsewhere or close up shop and layoff employees. Those are our primary concerns. We believe it is our responsibility. Some of the businesses don't have insurance; the landlord may have other pressing issues. We want to address emergency concerns to not lose businesses. Councilman Bauer states he is trying to balance this with the homeowners. Give me some idea of the benefit. What do I say to the taxpayer who has suffered this winter. Mr. Wackers states it is a modest program and not to compensate for lost income. We are looking to transfer them to a location to continue operating in Middletown and whatever costs are associated with a quick transition. We are not looking at construction. It is getting businesses over a difficult hurdle. Councilman Bauer asks why a grant and not a no interest loan. Mr. Wackers responds to make it as easy as possible. Some of the businesses have lost their financial documents and a loan may be difficult. One business went into the basement with the fire fighters to locate important documents. They are trying to make it simple. Councilman Bauer states he was on the Council when we had O'Rourke's Diner and we put a lien on for the amount the City threw in for the project.

Councilman Klattenberg asks on the grants if the businesses have insurance to cover for these types of things. Mr. Wackers states one out of the four has business interruption service. The others are modest and keep their costs low and they didn't foresee a building collapsing on them. There are four businesses including the accounting firm and Oddfellows; Middletown Framing, Mike's Barbershop and Tesoro, who moved into the building and an art restoring business. Councilman Klattenberg asks if you reached out to them. Mr. Wackers states there is a meeting tomorrow and they discussed some of this with two of the businesses. Councilman Klattenberg states the \$5,000 may not help them. Mr. Wackers states they are still exploring that and looking at easing procedures. These assessments will be reviewed by Director Warner and the Mayor and they understand to review and get the businesses open again. Councilman Klattenberg states why is it a grant; you can be benevolent with a no interest loan. Mr. Wackers states those are issues they discussed in crafting the program and grants is the most direct and least cumbersome method. If the Council wants to give loans, that is something the Council can do.

Councilman Santangelo asks in the course of the conversation, you are aware we have done this before; we did it once with Liberty Street when it was torn up and there was a business impact. My feeling is this is typical in Middletown and my expectations because we have done this in the past. We don't want them going out of business. It is our obligation to help businesses maintain their business and it is a good project. You might look up what we did back then.

Councilman Daley states there are questions there is misconceptions about a grant program. It does not entail an entitlement program. None of them can walk in tomorrow and get the \$5,000. It allows discretion of the Mayor, myself and Bill Warner; it is for us to determine if a grant is warranted and how much. Is that correct. Mr. Wackers responds I agree with that. Councilman Daley states it is to keep it as simple as possible and we have done this before when there was a disruption of business and we also provided outright grants as a means of attracting business development. Mr. Wackers replies yes, we are doing it right now. Councilman Daley states we are doing business retention; we want them viable and to keep them in town. They may have options to go elsewhere. That is the goal of the program. Mr. Wackers states very much so.

**Noted for the Record**

Councilman Streeto arrives at 6:38 p.m.

Councilman Drew asks for Guy Russo, Water and Sewer Director. He asks about agenda item 9F. Do you have a total estimate on the repairs. Mr. Russo responds he does not; it is an existing metal roof. They go back to 1979 and 1980 when they were incorporated into the complex and it was the 1979 roof. It was two days and I don't have the total expense.

Councilman Streeto asks Bill Russo, Public Works Director and Ray Santostefano, Parks and Recreation Director to come forward with Guy Russo, Director of Water and Sewer. We would be remiss if we didn't recognize the hard work people have put in on snow removal. It doesn't get said often enough. They have worked awfully hard and deserve recognition. These departments did a great job.

**Motion to Adjourn**

The Acting Chair asks if there are any other questions. Seeing no response, he asks for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Klattenberg moves to adjourn and his motion is seconded by Councilman Streeto. There is no discussion and the vote is called. It is unanimous to adjourn and the Acting Chair declares the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

ATTEST:

MARIE O. NORWOOD  
Common Council Clerk